of the Colic

V and known by the name of Colica pictonum, and Devonshire Colic – Dry gripes & nervous Colic

⊗ when it affects the upper bowels, it has been called Ileus or Iliac passion. they both depend upon the same cause, & require the same remedies. when seated in the small Guts it is =

Of the Colic

I formerly treated of Colic as a form of the intestinal state of fever. This state of Colic is known 1. by prevailing during the existence of bilious fever. 2 by a discharge of bile upwards and downwards. ~~and~~ 3 by being attended commonly preceded with Chills. and 4 by being seated chiefly in the upper bowels. This last mark is taken notice by Dr Sydenham. There are however exceptions to all these discriminating signs. Our business at present is to treat of the Colic as a disease of the Alimentary Canal, and seated chiefly in the muscular and nervous fibres of the lower bowels & particularly in the Colon, It is attended with great pain, sometimes with a Vomiting of bile. In all cases it is attended with a sense of twisting about the Navel, a retraction of the Abdomen, and sometimes of the testicles in males, suppression of Urine, hiccup, tenesmus

V met with in the course of my read-
-ing, a total inability in the will to
move the abdominal muscles in the
ordinary efforts to discharge the contents
of the bowels.

H and very properly, for it is like the
Tetanus connected with disease in the medulla
Spinalis, and hence the paraplegia or palsy of
the lower limbs, also of the Arms + ~~which often follows it.~~

The pulse throughout the whole disease
is either regular, or a little contracted
in its diameter and feeble in its
action.

+ and several ~~other~~ of the internal parts
of the body which follow it.

now and then diarrhea, but more gene=
=rally costiveness, ~~and with little or no fever~~ and in one case that I have
There is sometimes a ejection of the feces
in this disease ~~This is for the~~ by the mouth
in which case from the extreme distress
it produces, it has been called "Miserere
mei". It arises from a relaxation only & not a rupture of the
valve of the colon. There are instances of its being atten=
=ded with a temporary Gutta serena, a
silent delirium, and convulsions. Some
the ~~Symptoms~~ disease affecting the muscles ~~with~~ of the
bowels chiefly it has been called in the
~~Contraction and Bronchitis~~
West Indies an "intoxicated tetanus"; ~~the~~

Sometimes it is blended with the bilious
fever in which case it is attended with
the discharge & with chills and fever.

Its remote and exciting causes are
direct, and indirect. The direct causes are
~~All the remote & exciting causes of Gout.~~

V Cyder is said to produce it in England particularly in Devonshire where large quantities of Cyder are made and drun-
-ken by the inhabitants.

~~Hypochondriasis and Hysteria.~~

I certain substances taken into the bowels that act directly upon them. These are undigestible aliments, and drinks - particularly veal, fat pork, strong tea, sour or acescent liquors, honey, unripe fruit - the stones of fruit. Two instances from the last cause have occurred under my notice, - raw vegetables, cabbage, certain poisons - the fumes, and vapor of lead, and liquors impregnated with that metal. That they act directly and primarily upon the bowels, I infer from Colic ~~from them~~ being prevented by eating fat meat, or taking sweet oil by the men who work in lead. It is true, handling lead will impart paralytic symptoms to the fingers, but

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2 Worms and acid bile in the bowels, costiveness & ruptures.

v It is induced chiefly from this cause, in the East Indies, that is by sleeping upon the damp ground. ~~in wet weather~~

⊙ As stone in the kidneys - Inflam.n or Obstruction in the liver, and difficult menstruation by ~~from~~ the Uterus. When it arises from the last cause it is called Uterine Colic. This form of Colic likewise follows parturition, constituting a part of what are called After pains.

where no vapor is inhaled from it, I believe the bowels are ~~rarely~~ less frequently affected by it. It is from the vapor & fumes of lead that painters are so much more afflicted with this disease than any other people. Even the Cats and Dogs of painters in George Baker says are affected with it. ‡

1 The causes which act indirectly in inducing Colic are the prepuce of turgescence parts particularly of the liver, ~~and~~ kidneys and Uterus. The ~~former~~ first may be known by decubitus only on the right side – the ~~latter~~ second by turbid Urine. The 3d by occurring in preg. ~~It is called Colic by occurring at the period of menstruation. It is called Colic in Ruptures and long protracted costiveness.~~

2 Cold, particularly when it affects the feet, also repelled perspiration from other causes.

3 Intemperance from all its causes.

4 Tight dresses. I have once known it induced by a tight shoe.

5 All the causes of Gout, Hypochondriasis & Histimonia.

6 Both stimulating and sedative passions of the mind. It was brought on by a

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fit of laughter in the late Empress of Russia. It ended in a fatal apoplexy the next day. — Fear and grief are often its remote or exciting causes.

~~Diseases~~

Are there any premonitary signs of this disease? — Yes; — they are cold and dry feet, flatulency, coldness and slight pain. In this forming state of the disease, a gentle purge, a few drops of Laudanum & even the pediluvium frequently prevent its ending in a paroxysm, and finally prevents its recurrence, for it is as much confined by habit as Epilepsy or intermittent fever. By the exhibition of from 10, to 20 drops of laudanum I have often extinguished

V what! — bleed when there is no tension in the pulse, - no inflamma-tion, - no fever! — yes - bleed

N of the morbid excitement of the bowels into the relaxed blood vessels.

a paroxysm of the Disease, and in two instances eradicated it from the System without the Aid of any other medicine. I have once known its fits prevented & the Disease cured by riding a trotting horse a few miles in the forming state of the Disease. After the disease is formed the Remedies should be

1 Bleeding. ~~This remedy acts in four ways~~

1 ~~To~~ relax ~~the~~ the Spasm upon the Colon.

2 ~~To~~ prevent tension in the pulse, and inflammation. ~~Unless~~

3 To create a fever by inviting a portion of N

4 To forward the Action of Laxative ~~de~~ medicines, ~~and~~

5 ~~To~~ to ease pain, & ~~to~~ ~~it~~ ~~blood~~ to render the exhibition of Laudanum afterwards more safe and more useful.

The bleeding should be copious. It does

V Disease discovers ~~with~~ to tetanus in some of its causes, and ~~p~~ to paraplexia in its effects. perhaps the lop of blood from the Spine by Cups would be useful after general bleeding.

VI The mixture of the tincture of Asa-fœtida with the Condurango Dr Grier tells us ~~bene~~ tends to prevent the disease ending in a palsy of the limbs.

most service when it induces fainting.
It is indicated, most when the disease arises
from gout, or morbid affections of the liver
and Uterus, kidneys, from the relation which the
After the use of the lancet,
2 Laudanum may be given in liberal
quantities but in divided doses until ease
be obtained. A tea made of Burdock seeds,
also water impregnated with the smoke
of tobacco, have in some instances eased
pain as suddenly as laudanum. These
anodyne medicines should be assisted in
easing pain by
3 the Warm Bath. when it is inconvenient
to immerse the whole body, warm
fomentations should be applied to the
belly, or the belly should be bathed with

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Spirit of turpentine & Sweet oil, or sweet oil and hartshorn, be well rubbed with a dry hand. As soon as the pain is moderated

4 Purges should be given if Costiveness attend. Salts, Cremor tartar, Senna, Castor Oil, Cabinet, Rhubarb, Jalap, Gamboge and Scammony should all be employed in succession. It is a curious fact that the lenient purges often open the bowels sooner than the more active ones, and that they often succeed after the active purges have been given to no purpose. Perhaps the active purges prepare the bowels to be moved by the such as are lenient. These purges should be aided by Glysters, which should be made to act by their Quantity, and

℞ ~~Crude quicksilver ℥ij~~ a drachm of crude silver taken every two hours, and a mixture composed of green grafac: and sugar ā ℥ij intimately mixed in ℥iv of water of which a table spoonful should be given every hour.

quality. From a quart to half a gallon
and according to one writer two gallons
of water injected into the bowels Often
~~to relaxes~~ opens them immediately by disten=
=ding them. Clysters which are intended to
act by this quality should be made of
Solutions of Salts, Infusions of Senna,
or tobacco. ½ of the last ounce for a
pint of water - of turpentine - half a
Gill to a pint of water, and in desperate
cases 1/3rd of Brandy may may be added to 2/3rd
of a pint of water, and given with safe=
=ty. If all these fail of opening the bowels
the Smoke of Tobacco should be blown
into the bowels, and Liquid Laudanum
should be given by way of Clysters in
large doses mixed with a small quantity

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of water. It sometimes acts a purgeby relaxing the bowels. If this remedy should fail, recourse should be had to glysters of cold water. From a pint to a quart should be given at a time, so that it may act by its quantity as well as its relaxing or irritating quality. Recollect the bowels possess but the 1st grade of sensibility to cold water. I have done great service with this medicine, & in giving it have been surprised to hear many patients say they felt the sensation of cold from it. I am the more disposed to appreciate this medicine from having known a Citizen of Philad.: who for many years cured himself of the Colic by drinking from a pint to a quart of cold water. The water is

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this case acted as it does in the bowels by its sedative quality. Its effects upon the Stomach were communicated by sym-
-pathy to the bowels. From the Stomach
possessing the 1st grade of sensibility to cold
water it is possible that quantity of water
received into it may produce three times
as great effects as the same quantity re-
-ceived into the bowels.

Suppositories made of Soap, or Alum
or of the following ingredients have been
found useful in opening the bowels. Gum
Thus: mastich, ℞ Croci ā ℥ss Opii ℈ ij
mixed into a solid mass with the yolk of
an egg and a little honey. —

I have thus mentioned the common
mode of opening the bowels, but I must

mention here that a practice was intro=
=duced some what different from it into
this city by the late Dr Cadwallider. It con=
=sisted of never giving a laxative medicine
of any kind before the 4th or 5th day of the
disease, and then giving such only as
were of the most lenient kind. The late Dr
Warren of London adopted this practice,
and recommends it in high terms in one
of the Volumes of the medical transacti=
=ons. He says it shortens the duration of
the disease, and saves the limbs from that dis=
=tressing consequence of it a palsy. The time
to begin to exhibit the purges is when the
pain assumes the form of griping, and is
felt below the navel. I suspect this

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mode of giving purges would be rendered unnecessary, were bleeding always employed in the first stage of the disease. I have never met with a case of it which ended in palsy, and I have ascribed this to my early & liberal use of the lancet.

5 Blisters are very useful in this disease especially when there is reason to believe it affects a gouty constitution. They should be applied to the wrists, thighs, ancles & joints to which parts they are more useful than when applied to the belly. I learned the use of this remedy from a physician in Jamaica when a young practitioner, and have had greater reason to think highly of it. Recollect what was said formerly

‡ This is the more probable from this efficacy when applied to the lumbar region in cases of a suppression of Urine from a paralysis of the nerves or coats of the bladder. The obstinate costiveness in this disease is I believe often the effects of spinal paralysis. as well as local.

V might be applied with advantage to the Spine.

of the Sympathy between the bowels, & the Spine. Perhaps they would be more useful to the Spine than to either of the parts that have been mentioned. Cataplasms ~~of~~ or plasters of Mustard to the feet particularly to the ancles, and ball of the great toe. They are most useful where the disease seems in a person subject to Gout. I have seen it act like a charm in removing the pain when applied ~~after~~ depletion in the early stage of the disease. Perhaps these Cataplasms ~~Placing a patient upon~~ upon a cold his feet ~~and throwing cold water all over~~ ~~throwing cold water~~ ~~belly~~ hearth and throwing cold water all over his belly. There is a case upon record of ~~its~~ the wonderful effects of this remedy in this disease in the Medical Essays of Edinburgh. The late Dr Barts was inform=
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me that he had used it with great success in the Colic in South Carolina. It probably acts by inducing a action in the spine and determining it ~~to the~~ ~~bowels~~ in an equable manner to the bowels.

8 a Salivation. The propriety of this remedy is evinced by a spontaneous salivation having cured four cases of it. This is taken notice of by Dr Warren. I will recollect to have seen a cure performed by it by my preceptor in medicine ~~by~~ who had given Calomel in large doses in order to open the bowels of his patient. ~~all his pains~~ This effect was produced, ~~left him, and~~ ~~This bowels were opened~~, and all his pains left him as soon of the mercury affected his mouth. I have often given, and always with advantage

V accommodated to one of the causes or effects of this disease that is an intussusception of the bowels, which I have not named, that is Emetics. They are said to be useful in invertedness the gut. It is said to discover itself by a hard lump in a part of the belly.

All the remote and exciting causes of the disease when practicable should be removed.

when it induced a salivation. It is to be lamen=
=ted, the mercury does not uniformly produce
this effect.

4 The Late Gov.r Lewis informed me that a
tribe of Indians whom he saw on his
way to the pacific Ocean ~~who~~ cure the Colic
by treading upon the bellies of persons af=
=fected with it. where no one is at hand
to do this, the patient presses his belly with
all his strength against a stick. Perhaps
the belt ^ employed by the Copts in Egypt
~~for Colic~~ to prevent or cure the Colic & Diarrhea,
might answer the purpose of this rude
remedy. They all act by ~~the~~ bringing the
parietes of the belly in Contact with the in=
=testines which by gently irritating them
produce a new action in them.
~~Johns~~ There is a remedy ~~for one of the~~

No relief should be considered as certain or durable until a diarrhoea is induced, or a griping felt below the navel.

Dissections exhibit the following appearances of persons who have died of this disease.

1 no marks of disease of any kind. This is noticed by Morgagni and Dr Heberden.

2 Inflammation, and adhesions of the intestines to each other in consequence of ~~adh~~ the membrane formed by it.

3 An interception of the intestines with & without the two parts of the intestine adhering to each other. ~~This is sometimes known before death by a headache or hurt on a part of the belly.~~

4 a Stricture, or Contraction of the diameter of the intestine.

5 Spasms in different parts of the intestines, — hence the Origin of Syballa. This was

first observed by Physicians. That spasms will continue after death, we learn from Dr. Dechaen who saw them several days after death from Tetanus. Rigor Mortis rigidity in the limbs likewise many hours after death from several other diseases.

6 A knot in the intestines. This was first seen by Dr. Wronsse.

7 mortification of the bowels &

8 Water in the ventricles of the brain, and probably in the medulla spinalis.

The symptoms which indicate a favourable issue of this disease are.

1 A discharge of wind downwards. It is the herald sign of a recovery.

2 A plentiful discharge of Urine downwards after it has been obstructed for some days.

3 The discharge of Syballa, also of Worms.

4 Great sensibility of the skin and of the soles of the feet.

5 A gentle sweat diffused over the whole body. ~~in the worst indicates this~~

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Bad symptoms are

1 A discharge of fæces by vomiting, & yet I have seen a recovery after this sign has taken place.

2 Hiccups and cold sweats.

3 Delirium.

In the East & West Indies a palsy of the upper and lower extremities often follows a recovery from this disease. It is the effect of the sympathy between the nerves of the limbs and the bowels – for the disease in the bowels is nothing but an acute, and partial palsy. — It might probably be pre=
=vented by early bleeding. ——

The recurrence of the disease should be prevented by avoiding all its remote & exciting causes. The most prominent of these are costiveness, exposure to the vapor of lead, to damp ~~air~~ and cold air, and ~~to~~ an indolent

V precautions may be added the constant use of the Copt or Egyptian belt.

life. Costiveness should be obviated by taking occasionally a little Rhubarb, or a teaspoon-ful of the following medicine which has been much commended for that purpose. Crude Tartar, Cream of tartar & Salt of Tartar of each equal parts. The effects of bad eating be obviated by oily aliment. The hurtful effects of Damp & cold air may be obviated by warm dresses. Francis Citesius a French physician who wrote in the year 1639 says this disease made its appearance in France immediately after the disuse of furs and skins in dress in consequence of which the body suffered more from damp & cold weather. The feet above every other part of the body should be protected from the cold. Indolence should be obviated by constant exercise especially on horseback. — To these

This disease was very common in this city while I was a student of medicine & for some years after I settled in it which was in the year 1769. It is now a rare disease. I have ascribed its disappearance to the following causes.

1 To the disuse of punch as a drink at 12 O'clock, and in the evening.

2 The general use of flannel next to the skin. ~~Thus~~ By the use of small linnen instead of punch, and by the practice of wearing flannel shirts or waiscoats next to the skin the disease has been nearly driven from several of the West India Islands.

3 The disuse of ~~warm~~ hot suppers ~~with~~ consisting of all the articles of dinner.

4 Less exposure to the night air by sitting

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in porches which of late years ~~are erected~~ compose no part of our new houses, and are re=
=moved from many of our old ones.

~~There is a disease of the bowels known by the name of the Iliac passion from its being seated in the upper intestines. It is accom=panied with more fever, but less pain than the Colic I have described. Its causes & remedies are nearly the same, as the Colica pictonum.~~